

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants would like to express their appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided, and for the acknowledgment of Applicants' Claim for Priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document in the Official Action.

Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 1, 9 and 17 will have been amended, and the specification and drawings will have been amended. Claims 1-20 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding rejections, and allowance of all the claims pending in the present application.

Applicants note that the specification, claims and drawings have been amended for clarification. Applicants submit that the amendments to the specification, claims and drawings find support in the original disclosure, and do not introduce any impermissible new matter into the application.

On pages 2 and 3 of the Official Action, claim 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants note that the language pointed out by the Examiner has been removed from the claims by the present amendment. Applicants submit that the claims as presently drafted are clear and definite. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

On page 2 of the Official Action, claim 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by HUNG (U.S. Patent Application Publication No.2004/0096341).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a).

Claim 1, as currently amended, includes, inter alia, “a hollow axially passing through a central portion of the body and the base.” Applicants submit that HUNG lacks any disclosure of an elastic member having a body and base with a hollow passing axially therethrough. In this regard, Applicants note that the central opening in the elastic legs 2 of HUNG do not pass through the elastic body, but are instead closed off by the top portion 21 (note Figs. 7-10).

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the rejection of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) is improper at least for each and certainly for all of the above reasons. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and an early indication of the allowance of these claims.

On page 2 of the Official Action, claims 9-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over SAHS (U.S. Patent No. 3,785,167) in view of HUNG (U.S. Patent Application Publication No.2004/0096341).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 9-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 9 and 17, as currently amended, each include, inter alia, “an elastic member for absorbing a vibration of the compressor, the elastic member comprising: a body on which a compressor is mounted, the body having a plurality of grooves enclosing an interior surface and an exterior surface thereof, wherein the body is shaped to have a vertical section in a zigzag, and the interior grooves have vertical sections that grow wider toward a center of the body and the exterior grooves have vertical sections that grow wider toward an outer surface of the body, a base provided on a lower end of the body and supporting the body, a stopper coupling part provided on a top of the body, wherein the body, the base and the stopper coupling part are integrally formed, and a hollow axially passing through a central portion of the body, the base, and the stopper coupling part”.

Applicants submit that SAHS lacks any disclosure of *an elastic member having a body, a base and a stopper coupling part which are integrally formed, with a hollow passing axially through a central portion of the body, the base and the stopper coupling part*. In this regard, Applicants note that bushing 20 (21, 22, 23) of SAHS clearly does not include a stopper coupling part. Further, Applicants note that bushing 18 of SAHS clearly is not formed integrally with the bushing 20. Applicants further submit that HUNG does not provide any teachings which could possibly be viewed as curing these deficiencies in the disclosure of SAHS.

Applicants submit that SAHS lacks any disclosure of *a body having a plurality of grooves enclosing an interior surface and an exterior surface thereof to have a vertical section in a zigzag, with the interior grooves having vertical sections that grow wider toward a center of the body and the exterior grooves having vertical sections that grow wider toward an outer surface of the body*. Applicants note that the Examiner appears to acknowledge that SAHS lacks any disclosure of such a body. Further, although HUNG appears to show a an elastic leg 2 with bendable sections, Applicants submit that it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide such bendable sections in the bushing 20 of SAHS, particularly since SAHS clearly relies upon the spring 24 for flexibility and vibration dampening. Further, Applicants note that HUNG itself discloses the use of springs 3, as shown in the embodiments of Figs. 11 and 12, and thus clearly teaches away from providing such bendable sections when a spring is used for flexibility and vibration dampening. Applicants further submit that the elastic leg 2 of HUNG, which is located below a bottom plate 13, is not analogous to the structure of SAHS, particularly since it supports the entire load itself, does not have a central hollow passing therethrough, and is clearly not part of a base pan, stand and stopper system. Applicants further submit that the elastic leg 2 of HUNG does not include interior grooves with vertical sections that grow wider toward a center of the body and exterior grooves with vertical sections that grow wider toward an outer surface of the body.

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Accordingly, Applicants submit that the rejection of claims 9-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is improper at least for each and certainly for all of the above reasons. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and an early indication of the allowance of these claims.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

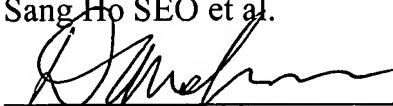
Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so.

Any amendments to the claims that have been made in this amendment, which do not narrow the scope of the claims, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered cosmetic in nature, and to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Attachments: 4 Replacement Sheets of Drawings containing Figs. 2-5

AMENDMENTS TO DRAWINGS

Replace the four original sheets of drawings containing Figs. 2-5 with the four replacement sheets attached hereto which contain Figs. 2-5. The figures in the replacement sheets include the following changes:

Fig. 2: reference numbers 16 and 16a have been added;

Fig. 3: reference numbers 16, 16a, 11a and 12a have been added;

Fig. 4: reference numbers 16, 16a, 10 and 15 have been added; and

Fig. 5: reference number 100a has been added.